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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously presented):   A method of communicating between a host optical system controller and an optical subcontroller, the method comprising:

sending an initial command message from said host to said subcontroller, said command message including a first command identifier indicating a command from said host to said subcontroller;

receiving said first command message at said subcontroller;

consulting a command database at said subcontroller to interpret said first command message, said database containing mulitple possible valid command identifiers, each command identifier having a corresponding interpretation and action in said database based on a specific type of optical device connected to said subcontroller;

at said subcontroller, implementing an action corresponding to said first command message based on said corresponding interpretation of said command identifier and formulating a proper response to said command identifier based on a result of said corresponding action; and

sending a response message from said subcontroller to said host, said response message indicating a success or failure of said corresponding action,

wherein said subcontroller ignores subsequent command messages received prior to sending a response message responsive to the first command message, and

wherein said subcontroller controls at least one optical device for use in optical

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networking.

Claim 2 (Original):   A method as in claim 1 wherein each response message includes
at least one optical parameter to be set by said optical subcontroller.

Claim 3 (Original):   A method as in claim 1 wherein said first command message
includes at least one optical parameter to be set by said optical subcontroller.

Claim 4 (Original):   A method as in claim 3 wherein said first command message
further includes at least one magnitude to which said at least one optical parameter is
to be set.

Claim 5 (Original):   A method as in claim 1 wherein said first command message
further includes addressing data indicating a portion of an optical subsystem controlled
by said optical subcontroller to which the command is to be applied.

Claims 6 - 21 (Cancelled)

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